

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor



STATE OF NEVADA

Women Veterans Advisory Committee

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Interim Report and Recommendations for the Governor from the Nevada Women Veterans Advisory Committee

Introduction and Executive Summary:

On March 13, 2014 Governor Brian Sandoval established the Nevada Women Veterans Advisory Committee (WVAC) by Executive Order 2014-08. The purpose of the Committee is to support and assist the State Women Veterans Coordinator in locating, educating, and advocating for all women veterans in the state. A final report will be presented by the Committee to the Governor by June 1, 2015. At the request of the Director, Military and Veterans Policy, this interim report is submitted by the WVAC in order to inform possible legislation for the upcoming 78th Nevada Legislative Session.

Recommendations in this report result from WVAC deliberations conducted during public meetings on July 23, 2014 and August 15, 2014. In accordance with Nevada Open Meeting Law, meeting dates, agendas and minutes of these meetings are available through the Nevada Department of Veterans Services' website.

The committee used information from surveys, face-to-face conversations with women veterans, presentations from the Nevada Department of Veterans Services and the US Department of Veterans Service, and their personal knowledge/experiences as women veterans to develop these recommendations. It is the hope of this committee that the recommendations that follow will help veterans and nonveterans alike understand and celebrate the legacy of America's service women, and help create a culture that recognizes and supports the unique needs of women veterans. There has been significant progress made towards support of women veterans but much remains to be accomplished; the recommendations in this report are intended to continue that momentum.

Guiding principles: As directed by the Executive Order establishing our Council, we have made locating, educating, and advocating for all women veterans in Nevada a central focus of our overall efforts to date.

The first round of recommendations and endorsements developed are:

1. Recommend that the Nevada Department of Veterans Services Women Veteran Program Coordinator be established as a full time position. It is currently staffed as a part-time function.

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2. Recommend that the Women Veterans Advisory Committee (WVAC) be codified in statute as a sub-committee of the Veterans Services Committee (VSC). We suggest that the WVAC consist of a minimum of seven members, two of which represent women veterans from rural and frontier areas across the state. A member of the WVAC, as selected by the WVAC Chair, would serve on the Nevada Veterans Services Commission.
3. Recommend that Nevada Department of Veterans Services continue efforts to develop a Veterans Information System to identify where veterans are located throughout the state so that veterans (to include women veterans) are informed about benefits and opportunities that they may be eligible for.
4. Recommend that State of Nevada agencies who collect veteran data add the data collection question, "Have you ever served in the United States Military?" to their forms/applications (during the next programmed update) in place of the question "Are you a veteran?" Studies have shown that many women veterans do not self identify as a veteran and asking if they have served will help ensure that their status as a veteran is identified.
5. Recommend that the Governor encourage US Department of Veterans Affairs and State of Nevada initiatives to provide or expand tele-health programs for Women Veterans in rural areas.
6. Recommend that the Governor communicate to the US Department of Veterans Affairs the need for a full time Obstetrician/Gynecologist at the Southern Nevada Veterans Medical Center so that women veterans' needs are met.
7. Recommend that Nevada Department of Veterans Services develop a white paper in collaboration with the Women Veterans Advisory Committee that informs legislators and State Agencies of facts regarding Nevada's Women Veterans, to include demographics, their contributions to National and State security, and unique needs of this population. This information may help reduce misinformation and improve women veteran programming support.
8. Recommend that Nevada Department of Veterans Services develop a women veterans training module to be included in the training for Nevada Veterans Advocates and the Nevada Veterans Service Officers.
9. Recommend that Nevada Department of Veterans Services develop a Strategic Communications Plan that includes how to reach women veterans throughout the state.

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10. The Women Veteran Advisory Committee endorses the efforts of the Nevada System of Higher Education in developing Veterans support programs and on-campus Veterans Support Centers in Nevada to support Nevada Veterans.

The Women Veterans Advisory Committee will continue to meet in order to complete the work outlined in Executive Order 2014-08. The final report will be delivered to the Governor by June 1, 2015 and will contain a complete list of recommendations that the WVAC believe will support and improve services for women veterans in Nevada.

Biographies for each of the Governor's appointees to the Committee can be found in Appendix A of this report.

Appendix A

Women Veterans Advisory Committee Biographies

Chair of Committee – Dr. Anne Davis – Retired Army Colonel/Reno - Dr. Anne Davis is a native of Michigan. She graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1982 earning a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps. She served in the Army for 29 years in various locations and positions. She commanded the Hawthorne Army Depot from 2000-2002, a government-owned, contractor-operated (GOCO) ammunition depot located in Hawthorne, Nevada. Anne Davis earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1991 and her Ph.D. in Business from The City University of New York in 2005. She is currently a member of the faculty for Walden University's Doctor of Business Administration Program.

Sharlee W. Smith – Retired Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel/Reno

Charley enlisted in the US Army as a Private First Class on 19 Dec 1981; and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel on 31 May 2006. Her education includes a Bachelor's Degree, a Master's Degree, and completion of the US Army Command & General Staff College. Her highest military award is the Legion of Merit. Charley is an avid volunteer for Veterans and serves in the following organizations and volunteer programs – current President and life member of the Sixth Region of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA); Charter Member of the Women In Military Service for America (WIMSA); life member of the Reserve Officers Association (ROA); life member of the National Guard Association (NGAUS); life member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV); member of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); only Veteran volunteer for the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Women Veterans Health Committee; and appointed in 2010 by the Nevada Governor for the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery Committee (Fernley). Her chosen passion is ballroom dancing and is her current profession, where she teaches and performs in the Northern Nevada area.

Anthoneal Newman – VA/Army Reserve E-4 Specialist/Las Vegas

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Mrs. Anthoneal Newman is an Operation Enduring Freedom Veteran who served in the United States Army Reserves for eight years and was deployed to Bosnia in 2004 - 2005. While in the military, she worked as an Administrative Assistant, Human Resource Specialist, and Postal Clerk. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Troy University. Mrs. Newman began her career with the Department of Veteran Affairs as a Veteran Service Representative (VSR) at the Montgomery Regional Office in April of 2009. Mrs. Newman accepted employment in Las Vegas, NV on August of 2014 to become the first VetSuccess on Campus Counselor (VSOC) in Nevada.

Bobi Pike-Oates – Women Veterans of Nevada Association/Retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant/Las Vegas

Roberta Pike Oates (Bobi) U. S. Air Force, retired aircraft maintenance Senior Master Sergeant, 23 years of service. She was handpicked as one of four individuals to stand up the Air Force first Remote Piloted Aircraft Predator Squadron at Creech AFB. As Production Superintendent for the 11th Reconnaissance Squadron she led the initial Air Force Cadre of Maintenance personnel through training at the UAV training center at Fort Huachuca, AZ, then on to Taszér, Hungary for the first Air Force Deployment in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. During her Air Force career she served at several overseas and stateside bases in various Aircraft Maintenance positions. She also deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey in support of Operation Provide Comfort.

After retiring from the Air Force she was a Branch Manager for Armed Forces Bank at Nellis AFB. Bobi has lived in Nevada for 20 years.

She is a member of the Women Veterans of Nevada Ceremonial team, and a board member. A life member of the Air Forces Association; a Charter Member of the Women in Military Service for America; Air Force Sergeants Association; American Legion; Veterans of Foreign Wars; and a life member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Bobi holds a BS in Business Management, AA in Aircraft Maintenance, AS in Law Enforcement, Certificates in Paralegal Studies and Banking.

Her awards include Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, 57th Wing, Nellis AFB and Resource Advisor of the Year Air Warfare Center, Nellis AFB.

Lesli Ellis – Retired Marine Corps Master Sergeant/Elko

Lesli Ellis joined the U.S. Marine Corps in February 1987 as a Marine Corps Integrated Maintenance Management Clerk. After completing her first overseas tour at Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Japan she was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. Here she made a lateral move to become a print journalist. In 1995, she was transferred to Recruiting Station San Francisco for duty in marketing in public affairs. In 1998 she returned to Camp Pendleton to serve as Press Chief, Media Chief and Internal Operations Chief. She was deployed to Egypt in 1999 for Exercise Bright Star 99/00. She then transferred to MCRD Parris Island to serve as the public

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affairs chief for the 9th Marine Corps District and was later reassigned to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan as the Station's public affairs chief. In 2007, she became the public affairs chief for Marine Forces Pacific stationed at Camp Smith, Hawaii. During her tour at MarForPac, she deployed to the Philippines for Exercise Balikatan twice, Thailand for Exercise Cobra Gold twice and Australia for Exercise Talisman Saber. She retired as a Master Sergeant in Oct. 2010 after 23 years of service. After retirement, she accepted a position as the public affairs specialist for the Bureau of Land Management in Elko, Nevada.